

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01

IO-10 /072 W

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R 051553Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6604

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 5705

E.O. 11652: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PE, EC

SUBJ: ECUADOREAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SUMMONS LATIN DIPLOMATS

TO POLICY CONFERENCE IN QUITO ON ECUADOR-PERU BORDER

TALKS

REF: A. QUITO 5618; B. QUITO 0564

1. RELIABLE EMBASSY SOURCE WITH EXCELLENT CONTACTS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY TOLD ADCM IN CONVERSATION JULY 31 THAT RECALL OF ECUADOREAN DIPLOMATS CONNECTED WITH SECRET PERU-ECUADOR BORDER TALKS INITIATED IN NOVEMBER, 1974.

2. GIST OF THIS SOURCE'S INFORMATION IS THAT PERU, CONCERNED BY RECENT SIGNS OF CHILE-BOLIVIA RAPPROCHMENT, HAS ONCE AGAIN RAISED POSSIBILITY WITH GOE OF SETTLING
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BORDER ISSUE ONCE AND FOR ALL. PERUVIANS ARE APPARENT-

LY WILLING TO HOLD TALKS IN ENTIRELY BILATERAL FRAME-
WORK OUTSIDE OF CONTEXT OF RIO PROTOCOL OF 1942. THEY
ARE SUPPOSEDLY STILL THINKING IN TERMS REPORTED BY
EMBASSY IN JANUARY (REF B) WHEREBY PERU WOULD ACKNOW-
LEDGE THAT ECUADOR IS AN "AMAZONIC COUNTRY" BY MAKING A
MINOR TERRITORIAL CONCESSION GIVING ECUADOR ACCESS TO
MARANON RIVER, WHICH IS AN AMAZON TRIBUTARY.

3. THE GUAYAQUIL NEWSPAPER EXPRESO CARRIED AN
ARTICLE ON AUGUST 3 REBUTTING AN ALLEGED STATEMENT BY THE
PERUVIAN CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL ANIBAL MEZA CUADRA THAT
ECUADOR WAS THE AGRESSOR IN THE MILITARY ACTION OF 1941
IN WHICH PERU OCCUPIED ECUADOREAN TERRITORY. IT SAYS
MEZA'S COMMENT IS CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION
ALONG THE FRONTIER THAT THAS CHARACTERIZED RECENT ECUADOR-
EAN-PERUVIAN RELATIONS. THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO WARN THE
ECUADOREAN ARMED FORCES AGAINST PERUVIAN DESIGNS WHICH
IT OUTLINES AS FOLLOWS: A) TO PLACE PERUVIAN FORCES IN
SUCH A MENANCING POSITION THAT IT WILL FORCE ECUADOR TO
ACCEPT WITHOUT DISPUTE THE BORDERS CLAIMED BY PERU -- ALL
THE ORIENTE WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF A SINGLE RIVER
TO THE AMAZON, JAEN AND TUMBES; B) TO RETAIN PORTIONS OF
PROVINCE EL ORO ALREADY OCCUPIED BY PERU AND TO GAIN
CONTROL OF REMAINING PARTS OF EL ORO LOCATED IN THE
ORIENTE; C) IF ECUADOR RESISTS OR DELAYS IN ACCEPTING
PERUVIAN DEMANDS, TO OCCUPY EL ORO AND ADVANCE ON LOJA,
CUENCA AND GUAYAQUIL; AND D) TO AVOID INTERVENTION OF
THIRD COUNTRIES AS MEDIATORS IN THE DISPUTE WITH ECUADOR.

4. COMMENT: IN PAST DISCUSSIONS OF THIS SUBJECT HERE,
GOE OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT ANY PROGRESS
TOWARD A TERRITORIAL SETTLEMENT WITH PERU IS LIKELY TO
BE SLOW. MOREOVER, THERE IS WIDESPREAD LOCAL RECOG-
NITION THAT ANY TERRITORIAL SETTLEMENT SHORT OF COMPLETE
RECOVERY OF LOST TERRITORIES (WHICH IS OBVIOUSLY IMPOS-
SIBLE) WILL POSE DELICATE POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR GOE. THE
EXPRESO ARTICLE IS MERELY ONE INDICATION OF THIS.
NONETHELESS, FOREGOING REPORT THAT GOE IS LOOKING INTO
POSSIBILITY OF SOME COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT IS CONSISTENT
WITH OTHER RECENT SIGNS OF GROWING PERU-ECUADOR FRIEND-
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SHIP, I.E., RECENT DECORATION OF PRESIDENT BY PERUVIAN
AMBASSADOR, INCREASED EXCHANGE OF MILITARY AND OTHER
OFFICIAL VISITS AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION ACTIVITIES
ALONG PERU-ECUADOR BORDER. ALL OF THESE ACTIVITIES
REPRESENT A SHIFT TOWARDS GREATER PERU-ECUADOR
COOPERATION WHICH WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE IN LOCAL
POLITICAL CLIMATE SEVERAL YEARS AGO. IT REMAINS TO BE
SEEN, HOWEVER, WHETHER RELATIONS HAVE IMPROVED SUFFI-

CIENTLY TO PERMIT A DEFINITIVE BORDER SETTLEMENT. THAT,
IT WOULD SEEM TO US, WILL IN LARGE MEASURE DEPEND ON
CONCESSIONS THAT PERU, FOR REASONS OF ITS OWN, IS
PREPARED TO MAKE TO ECUADOR.
BREWSTER

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